

and injuries at railroad crossings and along railroad rights of way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all of our colleagues to join in thanking Joyce Rose for her years of service to the U.S. Congress and our Nation. We wish her well in her new career at Operation Lifesaver.

#### ROCKET ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FROM GAZA

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong solidarity with the people of Israel and in support of its right, as any sovereign nation, to defend its citizens against rocket attacks from Hamas, a terrorist organization dedicated to Israel's destruction. The rocket attacks launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza strip earlier this month against civilian targets in Israel, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, continued a reign of terror that includes over 800 rocket attacks this year alone.

Several years ago, I traveled to Israel. It was clear that the constant threat of violence was a harsh reality of everyday life. Israel's efforts to eliminate this threat to her people, stop these attacks by Hamas, and destroy stockpiles of missiles must be viewed in this context. We grieve for the innocent civilians—Israeli and Palestinian alike—who have lost their lives in this tragedy. We appeal to Hamas to honor the ceasefire it agreed to on November 21, 2012; adhere to its terms; and stop storing and using its weapons among a civilian population, putting their lives in grave danger.

We also appeal for peace, and we hope those countries in the region that can help end the conflict will continue to work with us to do so. Our goal is a world where a Palestinian state and a Jewish state of Israel live side by side in peace and security. It can only happen when the Palestinian people enforce a peace that stops attacks on Israel, keeps their commitments, and acknowledges Israel's right to exist.

America stands firmly behind our friend and ally Israel; Hamas must permanently end its aerial assault against Israeli civilians and its allies must cease supplying these weapons of terror.

#### IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF IRVING ON ITS RECEIPT OF THE MALCOLM BALDRIGE NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Irving, Texas, for being named a recipient of the 2012 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award—the nation's highest Presidential honor for performance excellence.

Irving, Texas, is the first city in Texas to ever receive the Baldrige Award, and is only the second municipal recipient in the distin-

guished program's 25-year history. Applicants were evaluated by an independent board of examiners in seven areas defined by the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; operations focus; and results. The evaluation process for each of the recipients included hundreds of hours of process review and an on-site visit by a team of examiners.

I commend the City of Irving, Texas, for adopting private sector programs to make government more efficient and for striving towards performance excellence through innovation, continuous improvement, and visionary leadership. The City of Irving is a Lone Star model of fiscal achievement, values its resident feedback, focuses on strategic planning and process efficiency, and prioritizes public safety initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my respected colleagues to join me in recognizing the City of Irving, Texas, for being awarded the Malcolm Baldrige Award National Quality Award.

#### IN MEMORY OF OFFICERS KEVIN BOWDEN AND ADRIAN MORRIS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, since August of this year, the people of Prince George's County, Maryland, have lost two of their finest. Tragically, in separate incidents, two Prince George's County police officers were killed in car crashes. Both men served with distinction and were dedicated to keeping our communities safe.

On August 20, while he and his partner were in a high-speed pursuit of a suspect in an attempted car theft, Officer Adrian Morris's police cruiser veered off of the Capital Beltway near Laurel, Maryland. Adrian was killed in the line of duty, and his partner, Mike Risher, severely injured. An immigrant originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Adrian wanted to be a police officer since a young age. While attending Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, he participated in the Prince George's County Police "Explorers" program, which helps young people learn about and prepare for careers in law enforcement. Adrian achieved his dream by joining the Prince George's County Police Department's Sixth District in 2010. When he was killed this past August, Adrian was only 23 years old. His mother, Sherrin Crosdale, and a younger brother survive him.

In a second, tragic setback to the men and women of the Prince George's County Police Department, on October 18 an accident took another officer's life. Off-duty Officer Kevin Donnell Bowden was headed home in his police cruiser after a shift when he was killed in a crash in Clinton, Maryland. Kevin had been with the force for six years, serving at the Oxon Hill station. His colleagues remembered him as a steady officer with a sense of humor who loved his job. Kevin grew up in the area and graduated from Surratsville High School. He loved football and was an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys. Kevin, who was 28 years old, was also a devoted father of sons DeAndre and Joshua and daughter Mahogany.

The loss of these two outstanding officers was a terrible blow to the Prince George's County Police Department and to all who call the County home. Adrian Morris and Kevin Bowden represent the finest tradition of service to our communities, and they will be sorely missed. I join in mourning their passing and in comforting their families and communities during this difficult time, and I am confident that their memories will inspire young people to follow in their footsteps in service to county, state, and country.

#### CONGRATULATING JINSA ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GENERALS AND ADMIRALS TRIP TO ISRAEL

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 27, 2012*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs and their continued excellence in providing American military leaders with an unparalleled look at the challenges facing Israel, our closest ally in the Middle East. JINSA's annual Generals and Admirals Trip to Israel offers recently retired American generals and admirals the opportunity to consult with Israel's senior political and military leadership on the persistent threats Israel faces across its borders and the shared threats our countries face in the region.

America has a long standing commitment to the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship, a unique bond forged by shared interests and shared democratic values. No country in the tumultuous region stands aligned with our ideals more than Israel. Amid a rising tide of radicalism and violent extremism in the region it is imperative that the United States stand by her ally and ensure that Israel can maintain its Qualitative Military Edge so that threats to Israeli and American security will be answered with strength and resolve. America's military and intelligence cooperation has proven successful and our joint missile defense efforts such as Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow have saved lives from the rockets launched into Israel from the Gaza Strip. These collaborations have also prevented weapon smuggling in the Sinai Peninsula and have effectively protected Israel against terrorism.

Unfortunately, as Iran expands its influence in the region, the threat of terrorism and conflict grows. Iran's radical mullahs call for death and destruction of Israel, America, and all that we stand for. Iran also continues their longstanding efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and today they are closer than ever to a nuclear bomb. The sanctions we have implemented have impacted Iran's economy, but Iran's leaders remain undeterred from their pursuit of their dangerous goal and continue to support various terrorist factions such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban. Iran's leaders are also strategic patrons of Syrian Dictator Bashar Assad, a brutal despot and sponsor of terrorism whose violent suppression of his own citizens has fueled sectarian conflict and extremism in violence in Syria. The United States must act as a global leader in order to thwart Iran's nuclear capabilities, combat their terrorist proxies, and ensure that the security of the United States, Israel, and our Arab allies is assured.